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(54) **APPARATUS FOR REMOVABLY CONTAINING MULTIPLE HANDHELD DEVICES**

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A45F 5/02	(2006.01)
F41C 33/02	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A45F 5/021*** (2013.01); ***F41C 33/0209*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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USPC 224/587, 665, 236, 238, 904

See application file for complete search history.

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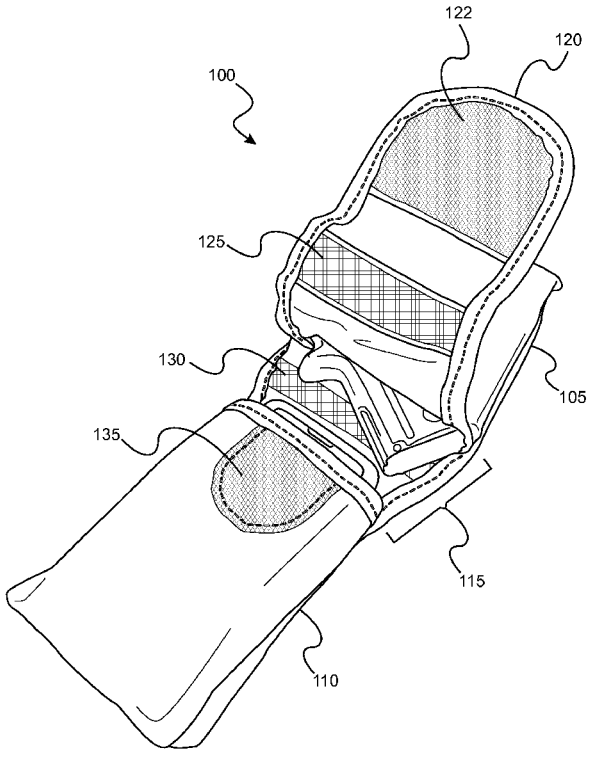
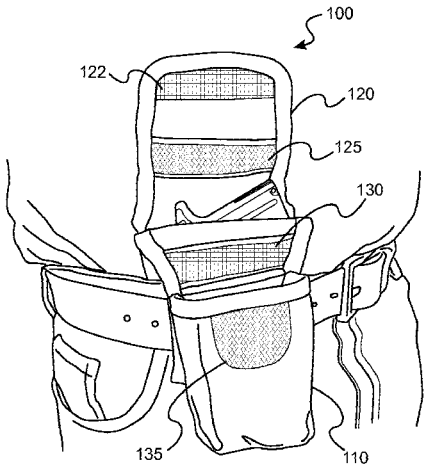
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices includes a first compartment dimensioned to removably store a first device and a second compartment dimensioned to removably store a second device. The back portion of the second compartment is attached to the back portion of the first compartment by a flexible portion spanning a distance between the first compartment and the second compartment and the flexible portion includes a first attachment mechanism positioned between the first compartment and the second compartment. A front flap extends from the front portion of the first compartment, the front flap to removably overlap the opening of the first compartment and the opening of the second compartment and the front flap including a second attachment mechanism to removably attach to the first attachment mechanism of the flexible portion.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





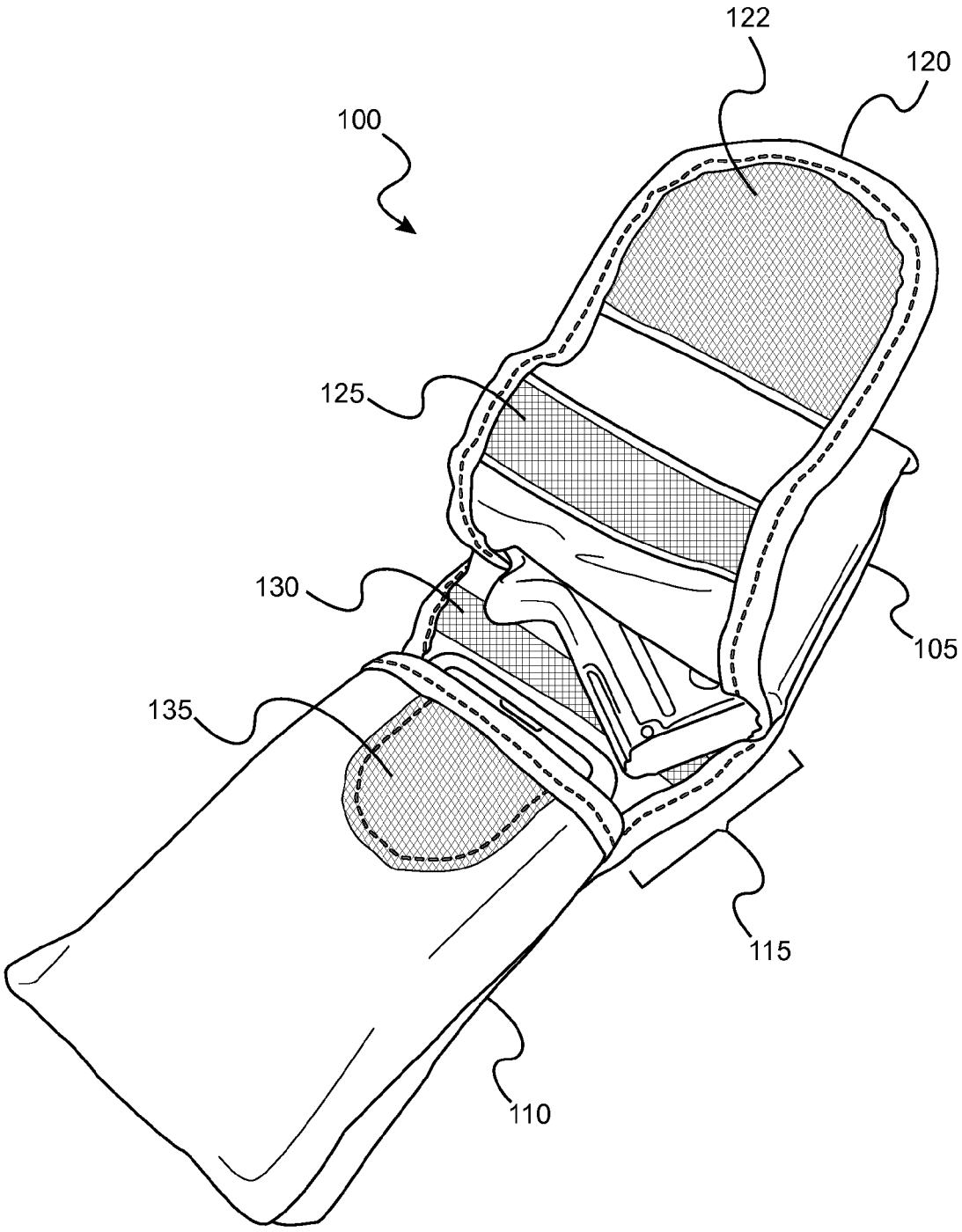


FIG. 1

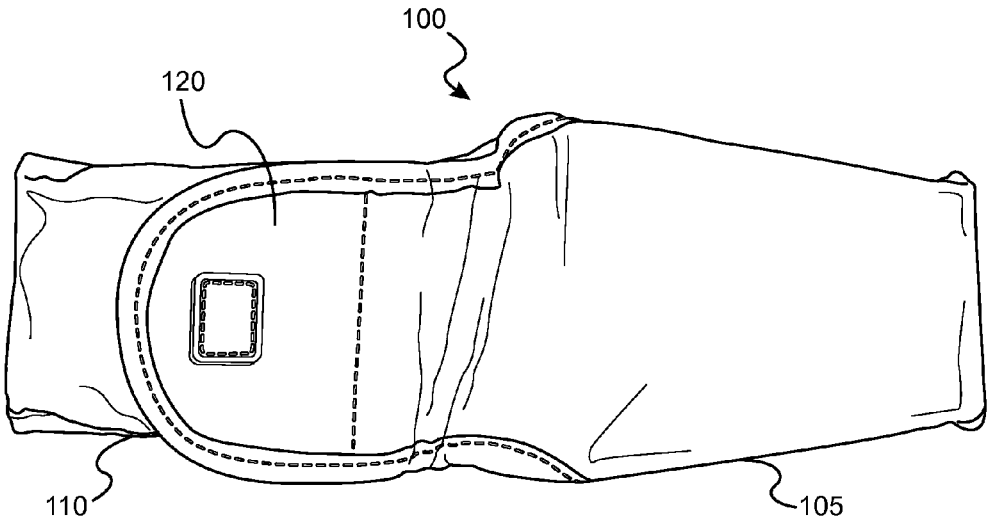


FIG. 2

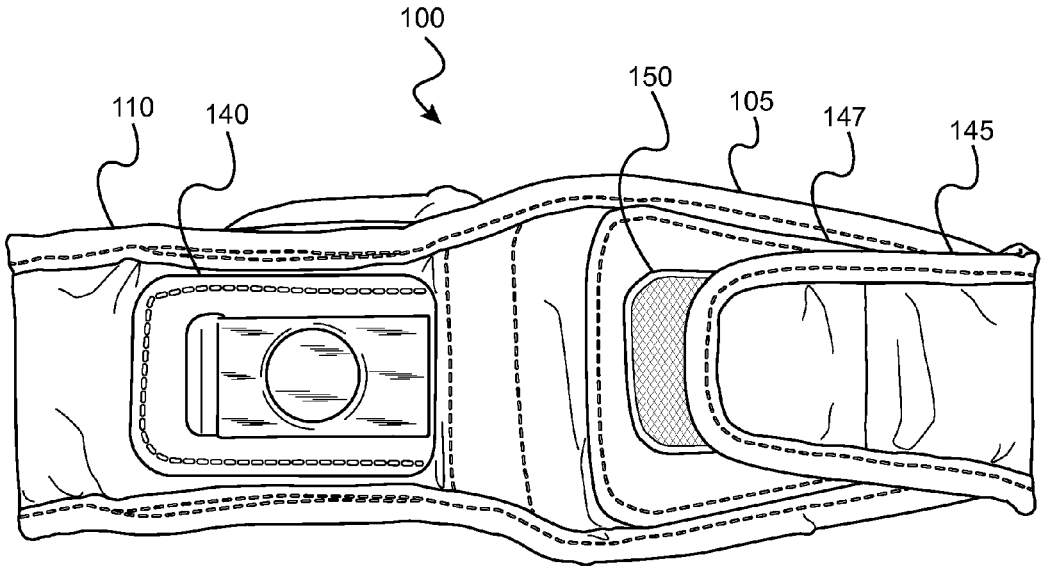


FIG. 3

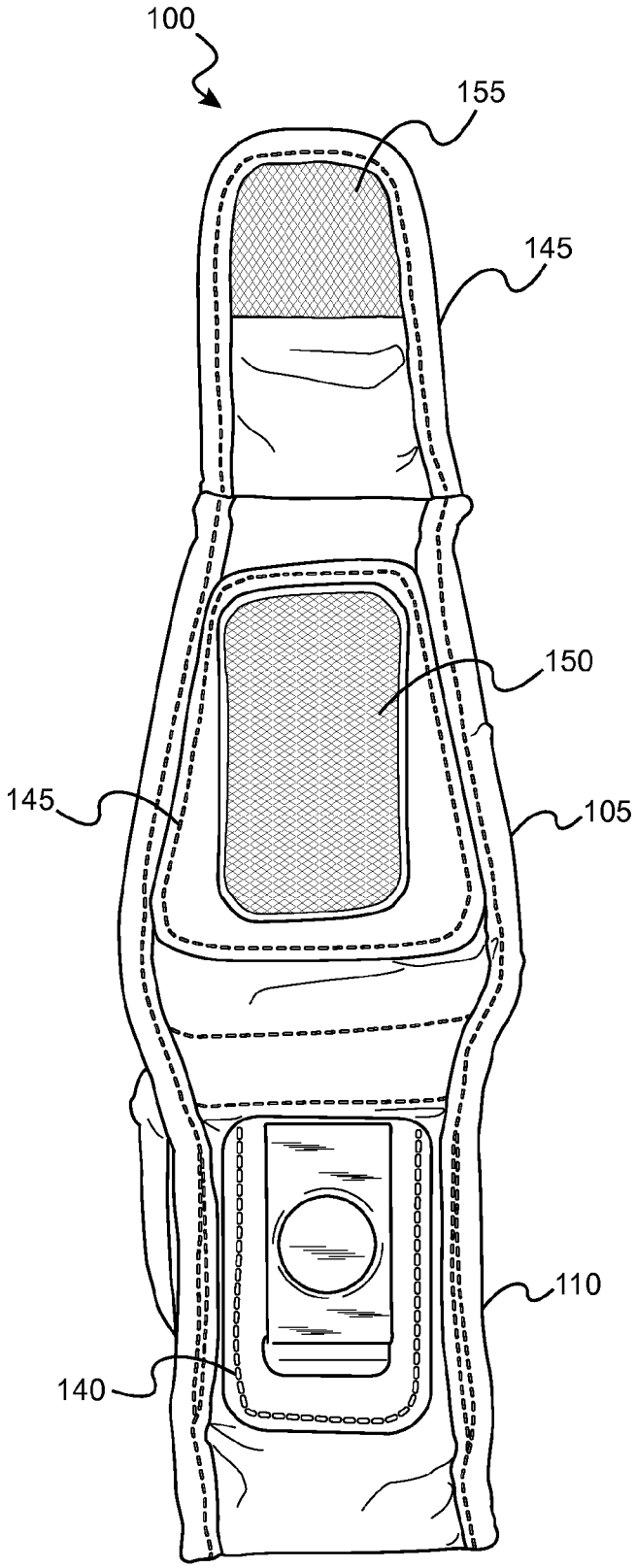


FIG. 4

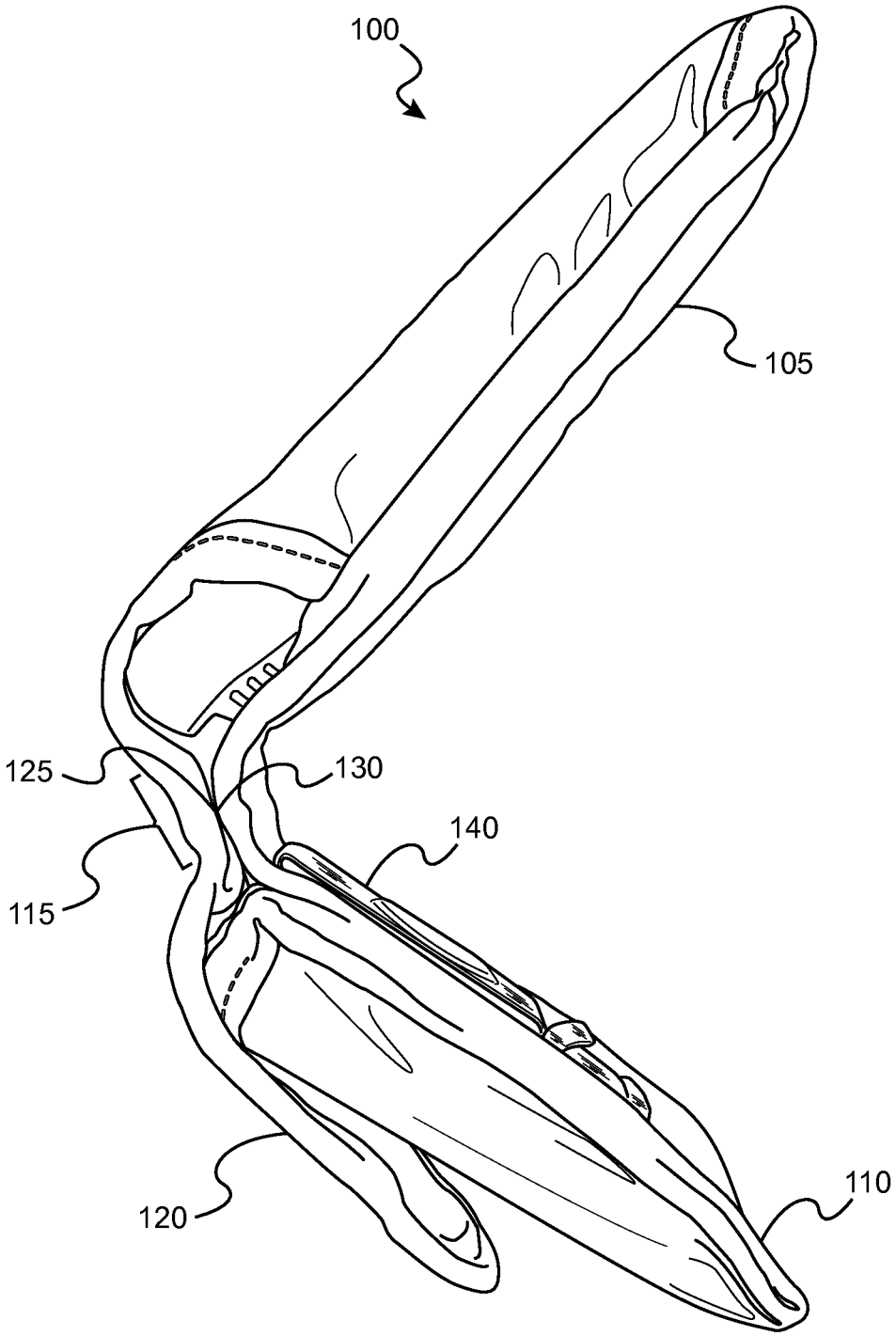


FIG. 5

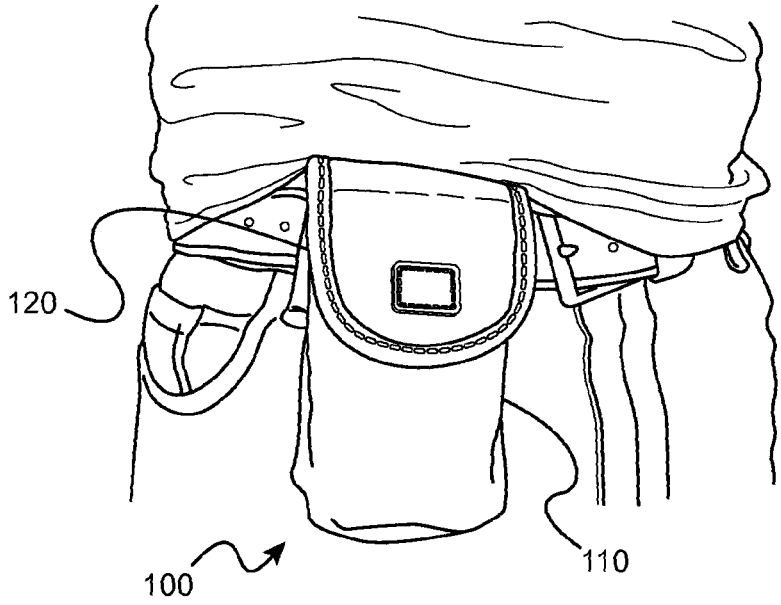


FIG. 6A

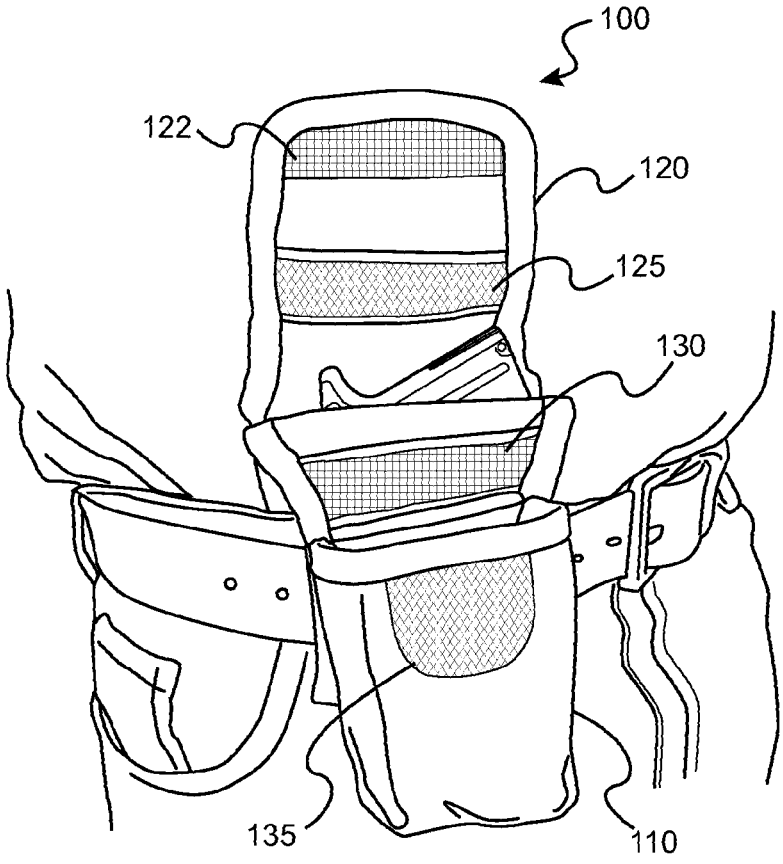


FIG. 6B

APPARATUS FOR REMOVABLY CONTAINING MULTIPLE HANDHELD DEVICES

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Traditionally, a law enforcement officers or combat personnel may carry a handheld firearm in a holster that is positioned in a concealed location on the body of the user. Additionally, individuals possessing a concealed carry weapon (CCW) permit may carry a handheld firearm in public if the handheld firearm is carried in a concealed manner on the body of the user, such as in a holster. Commonly, the holster is tucked inside the waistband of the user's clothing and secured by a connecting clip to an article of the user's clothing, such as a belt.

In recent years, in addition to a handheld firearm, most law enforcement officers, combat personnel and individuals possessing CCW permits also need to be able carry a handheld portable communication device, such as a cellular telephone or personal digital assistant (PDA). The portable communication device is traditionally carried in a case that is separate from the holster and that is also secured to an article of the user's clothing by a connecting clip.

As such, it is necessary for a law enforcement officer, combat personnel or individual possessing a CCW permit to carry both a handheld firearm holster and a cellular telephone case secured to their waistband. Carrying multiple devices is cumbersome. Additionally, due to the connecting clips it is not physically possible to position both the handheld firearm holster and the cellular telephone case in a location on the user that would be considered optimum for the handheld devices.

Accordingly, what is needed in the art is an apparatus capable of containing multiple handheld devices, such as a handheld firearm and a cellular telephone, and capable of being secured to a user by a common connecting clip.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention is provided an apparatus for removably containing one or more handheld devices, such as a handheld firearm and a cellular telephone.

In one embodiment, the apparatus includes a first compartment dimensioned to removably store a first device, the first compartment having opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the first device. The apparatus further includes, a second compartment dimensioned to removably store a second device, the second compartment having a bottom portion, opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the second device. The back portion of the second compartment is attached to the back portion of the first compartment by a flexible portion spanning a distance between the first compartment and the second compartment, the flexible portion including a first attachment mechanism positioned between the first compartment and the second compartment. The apparatus further includes a front flap extending from the front portion of the first compartment, the front flap to removably overlap the opening of the first compartment and the opening of the second compartment and the front flap including a second attachment mechanism to removably attach to the first attachment mechanism of the flexible portion.

The apparatus may further include a third attachment mechanism positioned on the front portion of the second compartment and the front flap may further include a fourth attachment mechanism to removably attach the front flap to the front portion of the second compartment.

The apparatus may further include a first apparatus attachment device positioned on the back portion of the first compartment and configured to allow the apparatus to be attached to a wearable article. In a specific embodiment, the wearable article is a belt.

The apparatus may further include a fifth attachment mechanism positioned on the back portion of the first compartment. In one embodiment, the first apparatus attachment device may include a back flap integral with, and extending from, the front portion of the first compartment, the back flap to form a bottom portion of the first compartment and the back flap having a sixth attachment mechanism to removably attach the back flap to the fifth attachment mechanism of the first compartment.

The apparatus may further include a second apparatus attachment device positioned on the back portion of the second compartment and configured to allow the apparatus to be attached to a wearable article. In a specific embodiment, wearable article may be a belt and the second apparatus attachment device may be a belt clip.

In a specific embodiment, one or more of the attachment mechanisms of the apparatus may be hook-and-loop fasteners.

As such, the apparatus of the present invention is capable of containing multiple handheld devices, such as a handheld firearm and a cellular telephone and is capable of being secured to a user by a common apparatus attachment device. The apparatus additionally provides independent accessibility to the multiple handheld devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Accompanying drawings show one or more embodiments; however, the accompanying drawings should not be taken to limit the invention to only the embodiments shown. Various aspects and advantages will become apparent upon review of the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is a diagram illustrating a front view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices with the front flap in an open position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a diagram illustrating a front view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices with the front flap in a closed position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **3** is a diagram illustrating a back view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices with the back flap in a closed position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **4** is a diagram illustrating a back view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices with the back flap in an open position, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **5** is a diagram illustrating a side view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **6**A is a diagram illustrating a front view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices with the front flap in an open position and the apparatus attached to a user, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **6**B is a diagram illustrating a front view of the apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices with the front

flap in an open position and the apparatus attached to a user, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Those of ordinary skill in the art will realize that the following detailed description of embodiments in this specification is illustrative only, and is not intended to be in any way limiting. Other embodiments will readily suggest themselves to such skilled persons having the benefit of this disclosure. It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that these specific details may not be required to practice the embodiments. In the following description of the embodiments, substantially the same parts are denoted by the same reference numerals.

Generally, the present invention provides an apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices that can be secured to wearable article of user.

With reference to FIG. **1**, an apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices **100** includes a first compartment **105** dimensioned to removably store a first device, the first compartment **105** having opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the first device. The first compartment **105** may be constructed of a flexible or non-flexible material. In one embodiment, the first compartment **105** may be constructed of a flexible nylon-based material.

The apparatus **100** further includes a second compartment **110** dimensioned to removably store a second device, the second compartment **110** having a bottom portion, opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the second device. The second compartment **110** may be constructed of a flexible or non-flexible material. In one embodiment, the second compartment **105** may be constructed of a flexible nylon-based material.

To couple the first compartment **105** to the second compartment **110**, a back portion of the second compartment **110** is attached to the back portion of the first compartment **105** by a flexible portion **115** spanning a distance between the first compartment **105** and the second compartment **110**. The flexible portion **115** may be contiguous with the back portion of the second compartment **110** and the back portion of the first compartment **105**. Alternatively, the flexible portion **115** may be independent attached, such as by sewing, the flexible portion **115** to the back portion of the second compartment **110** and the back portion of the first compartment **105**. In one embodiment, the flexible portion **115** may be constructed of a flexible nylon-based material.

To secure the multiple devices in the compartments and to conceal the top portion openings of the compartments, the present invention further includes a front flap **120** extending from the front portion of the first compartment **105** to secure and conceal the multiple devices when the front flap **120** is in the closed position as shown in FIG. **2**. To secure a device within the first compartment **110**, the flexible portion **115** is secured to the front flap **120**. To secure the flexible portion **115** to the front flap **120**, the flexible portion **115** includes a first attachment mechanism **130** positioned between the first compartment **105** and the second compartment **110** and the front flap **120** includes a second attachment mechanism **125**. The second attachment mechanism **125** is positioned on a lower portion of the front flap and is positioned to face the top portion of the second compartment **110** when the front flap is in the closed position. When the front flap **120** and is in the closed position, the first attachment mechanism **130** and the second attachment mechanism **125** are in contact to secure a handheld device within the first compartment **105** and to conceal the top opening of the first compartment **105**.

In one embodiment, the first attachment mechanism **130** and the second attachment mechanism **125** may form a hook-and-loop fastener, more commonly known as Velcro®. In forming the hook-and-loop fastener, one of either the first attachment mechanism **130** or the second attachment mechanism **125** may be comprised of a plurality of plastic hooks and the other of the first attachment mechanism **130** or the second attachment mechanism **125** may be comprised of a plurality plastic loops, such that when the first attachment mechanism **130** and the second attachment mechanism **125** are in contact, they form a hook-and-loop fastener that secures the front flap **120** to the flexible portion **115**. Alternatively, the first attachment mechanism **130** and the second attachment mechanism **125** may form a magnetic fastener or a physical fastener, such as a snap or latch, or any of a variety of other fastening means which are commonly known in the art.

The front flap **120** is additionally used to secure and conceal a device in the second compartment **110** when the front flap **120** is in the closed position as shown in FIG. **2**. To secure a device within the second compartment **110**, the flexible portion **115** is secured to the front flap **120**. To secure the flexible portion **115** to the front flap **120**, apparatus further includes a third attachment mechanism **135** positioned on the front portion of the second compartment **110** and the front flap further **120** further includes a fourth attachment mechanism **122** to removably attach the front flap **120** to the front portion of the second compartment **110**. In one embodiment, the third attachment mechanism **135** is positioned on the front flat **120** distal to the top opening of the first compartment **105** and the fourth attachment mechanism **122** is positioned on the front portion of the second compartment **110** and proximate to the top opening of the second compartment. When the front flap **120** and is in the closed position, the third attachment mechanism **135** and the second attachment mechanism **122** are in contact to secure a handheld device within the first compartment **105** and to conceal the top opening of the first compartment **105**.

In one embodiment, the third attachment mechanism **135** and the fourth attachment mechanism **122** may form a hook-and-loop fastener, more commonly known as Velcro®. In forming the hook-and-loop fastener, one of either the third attachment mechanism **135** or the fourth attachment mechanism **122** may be comprised of a plurality of plastic hooks and the other of the third attachment mechanism **125** or the fourth attachment mechanism **122** may be comprised of a plurality plastic loops, such that when the third attachment mechanism **135** and the fourth attachment mechanism **122** are in contact, they form a hook-and-loop fastener that secures the front flap **120** to the flexible portion **115**. Alternatively, the third attachment mechanism **135** and the fourth attachment mechanism **122** may form a magnetic fastener or a physical fastener, such as a snap or latch, or any of a variety of other fastening means which are commonly known in the art.

In a particular embodiment, the first device may be a handheld firearm removably stored in the first compartment **105** and the second device may be a portable communication device, such as a cellular telephone or a personal digital assistant removably stored in the second compartment **110** of the apparatus. The front flap **120** is removable secured to the first compartment **105** using the first attachment mechanism second compartment **110** using the third attachment mechanism **135** of the second compartment **110** and the fourth attachment mechanism **122** of the front flap **120**.

The multiple attachment mechanisms of the apparatus **100** allows for the selective removal of the individual handheld

devices. As shown with reference to FIG. **2**, when the apparatus **100** is completely closed, the opening of both the first compartment **105** and the second compartment **110** are concealed by the front flap **120**. In the closed configuration, the second attachment mechanism **125** of the front flap **120** is secured to the first attachment mechanism **130** of the flexible extension **115** and the fourth attachment mechanism **122** of the front flap **120** is secured to the third attachment mechanism **135** of the second compartment **110**.

The apparatus of the present invention enables a user to remove a handheld device from the second compartment **110** by detaching the third attachment mechanism **135** on the second compartment **110** from the fourth attachment mechanism **122** on the front flat **120** without detaching the first attachment mechanism **130** of the flexible extension **115** from the second attachment mechanism **125** of the front flap **120**. Buy only detaching the third attachment mechanism **135** from the fourth attachment mechanism **122**, the user is able to access the handheld device in the second compartment **110** while keep the handheld device in the first compartment **105** secured and concealed. To detach the third attachment mechanism **135** from the fourth attachment mechanism **122**, the user pulls the front flap **120** in an upward direction toward the top opening of the second compartment **110** with sufficient force to detach the third attachment mechanism **135** from the fourth attachment mechanism **122** but with insufficient force to detach the first attachment mechanism **130** from the second attachment mechanism **125**. In this way, the handheld device in the second compartment **110** is accessible to the user and the handheld device in the first compartment **105** remains in inaccessible, secure and concealed from view.

Additionally, to access the handheld device in the first compartment **105** the third attachment mechanism **135** of the second compartment **110** must be detached from the fourth attachment mechanism **122** of the front flap **120** and the first attachment mechanism **130** of the flexible portion **115** must be detached from the second attachment mechanism of the front flap **125**. To perform the detachment of all four attachment mechanism of the apparatus the user pulls the front flap **120** in an upward direction toward the top opening of the second compartment **110** with sufficient force to detach the third attachment mechanism **135** from the fourth attachment mechanism **122** and to detach the first attachment mechanism **130** from the second attachment mechanism **125**. In this way, the handheld device in the second compartment **110** is accessible to the user and the handheld device in the first compartment **105** is accessible to the user.

It is additionally envisioned that accessing the handheld device in the first compartment **105** may be performed by two separate applications of force by the user. In a first step the user may apply a first force on the front flap sufficient to detach the third attachment mechanism **135** from the fourth attachment mechanism **122**, thereby exposing the handheld device in the second compartment **110**. In a second step, subsequent to the first step, the user may then expose the handheld device in the first compartment **105** by applying a second force to the front flap to detach the first attachment mechanism **130** from the fourth attachment mechanism **125**.

As shown with reference to FIG. **3**, to attach the apparatus **100** to a wearable article of the user, such as a belt, the apparatus further includes a first apparatus attachment device **147** positioned on the back portion of the first compartment **105** and configured to allow the apparatus to be attached to a wearable article. In one embodiment, the first apparatus attachment device **147** includes a back flap integral **145** with, and extending from, the front portion of the first compartment **105**. As shown with reference to FIG. **4**, the back flap **145** includes a sixth attachment mechanism **155** positioned on the side of the back flap **145** opposite the front portion of the first compartment **105**. The apparatus **100** further includes a fifth attachment mechanism **150** positioned on the back portion of the first compartment **105**. The back flap **145** in flexible and is configured to wrap around the first compartment **105**, from the front of the first compartment **105** to the back of the first compartment **105**, to form a bottom portion of the first compartment **105**. The back flap **145** may be wrapped around the wearable article and the fifth attachment mechanism **150** may be removably attached to the sixth attachment mechanism **155** to attach the apparatus to the wearable article of the user.

In one embodiment, the fifth attachment mechanism **150** and the sixth attachment mechanism **155** may form a hook-and-loop fastener, more commonly known as Velcro®. In forming the hook-and-loop fastener, one of either the fifth attachment mechanism **150** or the sixth attachment mechanism **155** may be comprised of a plurality of plastic hooks and the other of the fifth attachment mechanism **150** or the sixth attachment mechanism **155** may be comprised of a plurality plastic loops, such that when the fifth attachment mechanism **150** and the sixth attachment mechanism **155** are in contact, they form a hook-and-loop fastener that secures the back flap **145** to the back of the first compartment **105**. Alternatively, the fifth attachment mechanism **150** and the sixth attachment mechanism **155** may form a magnetic fastener or a physical fastener, such as a snap or latch, or any of a variety of other fastening means which are commonly known in the art.

In an additional embodiment, the first apparatus attachment device **147** may also be a belt clip or any of a variety of other devices known in the art capable of attaching an apparatus **100** to a wearable article.

As shown with reference FIG. **3**, in an additional embodiment, to attach the apparatus **100** to a wearable article of the user, such as a belt, the apparatus **100** further includes a second apparatus attachment device **140** positioned on the back portion of the second compartment **110** and configured to allow the apparatus to be attached to a wearable article. In the figure shown, the apparatus attachment device **140** is a belt clip that is attachable to a belt worn by the user. However, in alternate embodiments, the apparatus device **140** may by any of a variety of other devices known in the art capable of attaching the apparatus **100** to wearable article.

An additional view of the apparatus **100** is illustrated with reference to FIG. **5**. As shown in FIG. **5**, the first compartment **105** is attached to the second compartment **110** by the flexible portion **115**. In this view, the front flap **120** is in the closed position with the first attachment mechanism **130** in contact with the second attachment **125** and the third attachment mechanism **135** in contact with the fourth attachment mechanism **122**. It can be seen that the flexible portion **115** effectively provides a hinge portion between the first compartment **105** and the second compartment. In this embodiment, the second compartment **110** includes a belt clip **140** for attaching to a belt worn by the user. Additionally, in this embodiment, the fifth attachment mechanism **150** and the sixth attachment mechanism **155** are not included with the apparatus **100**.

An illustration of the apparatus **100** in use is shown with reference to FIGS. **6**A and **6**B. As shown in FIG. **6**A, the apparatus **100** is secured to a belt worn by the user. In this embodiment, the first compartment **105** is tucked within the waistband of the user, between the body of the user and the user's pants or other article of clothing. Additionally, in this embodiment, the front flap **120** is in a completely closed position to secure and conceal the openings of both the first compartment **105** and the second compartment. As such, in

this embodiment, the first attachment mechanism **130** is attached to the second attachment mechanism **125** and the third attachment mechanism **135** is attached to the fourth attachment mechanism **122**.

As shown in FIG. **6**B, the apparatus **100** is secured to a belt worn by the user. In this embodiment, the first compartment **105** is tucked within the waistband of the user, between the body of the user and the user's pants or other article of clothing. Additionally, in this embodiment, the front flap **120** is in a completely open position to reveal and make accessible the openings of both the first compartment **105** and the second compartment. As such, in this embodiment, the first attachment mechanism **130** is detached from the second attachment mechanism **125** and the third attachment mechanism **135** is detached from the fourth attachment mechanism **122**.

The apparatus of the present invention is capable of containing multiple handheld devices, such as a handheld firearm and a cellular telephone and is capable of being secured to a user by a common apparatus attachment device. The apparatus additionally provides independent accessibility to the multiple handheld devices.

The foregoing descriptions of specific embodiments of have been presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed, and obviously many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. The embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles and practical applications, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. It is intended that the scope be defined by the claims appended hereto and their equivalents.

The invention claimed is:

1. An apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices, the apparatus comprising:

a first compartment dimensioned to removably store a first device, the first compartment having opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the first device;

a second compartment dimensioned to removably store a second device, the second compartment having a bottom portion, opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the second device, wherein the back portion of the second compartment is attached to the back portion of the first compartment by a flexible portion attached near the opening of the first compartment and near the opening of the second compartment, and spanning a distance between the first compartment and the second compartment, the flexible portion including a first attachment mechanism positioned between the first compartment and the second compartment; and

a front flap non-removably attached at the front portion of the first compartment, the front flap to removably overlap the opening of the first compartment and the opening of the second compartment and the front flap including a second attachment mechanism to removably attach to the first attachment mechanism of the flexible portion.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising a third attachment mechanism positioned on the front portion of the second compartment and wherein the front flap further comprises a fourth attachment mechanism to removably attach the front flap to the front portion of the second compartment.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the first device is a handheld firearm.

4. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the second device is a portable communication device.

5. The apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising a first apparatus attachment device positioned on the back portion of the first compartment and configured to allow the apparatus to be attached to a wearable article.

6. The apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the wearable article is a belt.

7. The apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the first compartment further comprises a fifth attachment mechanism positioned on the back portion of the first compartment and the first apparatus attachment device comprising a back flap integral with, and extending from, the front portion of the first compartment, the back flap to form a bottom portion of the first compartment and the back flap having a sixth attachment mechanism to removably attach the back flap to the third attachment mechanism of the first compartment.

8. The apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising a second apparatus attachment device positioned on the back portion of the second compartment and configured to allow the apparatus to be attached to a wearable article.

9. The apparatus of claim **8**, wherein the wearable article is a belt.

10. The apparatus of claim **8**, wherein the second apparatus attachment device is a belt clip.

11. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the first attachment mechanism and the second attachment mechanism form a hook-and-loop fastener.

12. The apparatus of claim **7**, wherein the third attachment mechanism and the fourth attachment mechanism form a hook-and-loop fastener.

13. The apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the fifth attachment mechanism and the sixth attachment mechanism form a hook-and-loop fastener.

14. An apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices, the apparatus comprising:

a first compartment dimensioned to removably store a first device, the first compartment having a bottom portion, opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions and a top portion opening to receive the first device;

a second compartment dimensioned to removably store a second device, the second compartment having a bottom portion, opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions, a top portion opening to receive the second device and a third attachment mechanism positioned on the front portion of the second compartment, wherein the back portion of the second compartment is attached to the back portion of the first compartment by a flexible portion attached near the opening of the first compartment and near the opening of the second compartment, and spanning a distance between the first compartment and the second compartment, the flexible portion including a first attachment mechanism positioned between the first compartment and the second compartment; and

a front flap non-removably attached at the front portion of the first compartment, the front flap to removably overlap the opening of the first compartment and the opening of the second compartment and the front flap including a second attachment mechanism to removably attach to the first attachment mechanism of the flexible portion and a fourth attachment mechanism to removably attach to the third attachment mechanism of the second compartment.

15. The apparatus of claim **14**, wherein the first device is a handheld firearm and the second device is a portable communication device.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the apparatus further comprises a belt clip positioned on the back portion of the second compartment.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first attachment mechanism and the second attachment mechanism form a hook-and-loop fastener and the fifth attachment mechanism and the sixth attachment mechanism form a hook-and-loop fastener.

18. An apparatus for containing multiple handheld devices, the apparatus comprising:

a first compartment dimensioned to removably store a first device, the first compartment having opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions, a top portion opening to receive the first device and a fifth attachment mechanism positioned on the back portion of the first compartment;

a second compartment dimensioned to removably store a second device, the second compartment having a bottom portion, opposing front and back portions, opposing side portions, a top portion opening to receive the second device and a third attachment mechanism positioned on the front portion of the second compartment, wherein the back portion of the second compartment is attached to the back portion of the first compartment by a flexible portion spanning a distance between the first compartment and the second compartment, the flexible portion including a first attachment mechanism positioned between the first compartment and the second compartment;

a front flap extending from the front portion of the first compartment, the front flap to removably overlap the opening of the first compartment and the opening of the second compartment and the front flap including a second attachment mechanism to removably attach to the first attachment mechanism of the flexible portion and a fourth attachment mechanism to removably attach to the third attachment mechanism of the second compartment; and

a first apparatus attachment device comprising a back flap integral with, and extending from, the front portion of the first compartment, the back flap to form a bottom portion of the first compartment and the back flap having a sixth attachment mechanism to removably attach the back flap to the fifth attachment mechanism of the first compartment.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first device is a handheld firearm and the second device is a portable communication device.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the apparatus further comprises a belt clip positioned on the back portion of the second compartment.

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